Volume 1, Issue 6: August 2012

SOAR

The Official Bulletin of The Fraternal Order of Eagles Grand Aerie

Florida Eagle Takes Journey Of A Lifetime

A pack of motorcycles turns down the road between the Amway Grand Hotel and DeVos Place Convention Center. Leading the way is a beautiful cherry red bike, with a pair of American flags on the back, flowing with the freedom its very colors represent.

Behind the handlebars sits an approachable man with a perpetually humble look. An eagle cap rests atop his head. A calming white beard that could make Santa Claus envious peeks out from underneath. Across his chest is a black leather vest, filled with various pins collected throughout his journey.

John "Bear" McMillan is in the midst of a quest to visit each of the Fraternal Order of Eagles' more than 1,600 Aeries. On this particular day, he's in Grand Rapids as part of the Finish For Darrell event in honor of brother Darrell Rall, who was injured on the 11th day of a 25-day, 25,000-mile ride to raise awareness for the F.O.E. Diabetes Research Center.

Bear and his wife, Lorry, have been on the road since November, making friends, enjoying life and raising more than $27,000 for various F.O.E. charities including the DRC.

Figuratively, Bear's heart is roughly the size of the mass of land he's traversing for such a great cause. Physically, that same heart pumps at just 30% after a pair of heart attacks more than 18 months ago changed the McMillan's lives forever.

"I've never been the type to just sit around," Bear said. "For 50 years I worked hard, then they told me I had a bad heart. I have to do something. Obviously, I'm not going to do anything to make it worse, but I just can't sit around all day."

John "Bear" McMillan, center, poses with Jr. Past Grand Worthy President Mel Fry and other participants of the Finish For Darrell ride.

What happened next can – and has – moved just about anyone. For years and years he'd worked tirelessly adding years to his life. Now it was time to add life to his years. Knowing that every day could potentially be Bear's last, he and Lorry sold almost everything they owned and hit the road with an old motor home and that beautiful cherry red bike to visit every

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2012-2013 Grand Aerie & Grand Auxiliary Officers

Grand Aerie		Grand Auxiliary
Mel Fry, Carlisle, PA #1299	**Jr. Past President**	Gwen Stallkamp, Albert Lea, MN #2258
Ron Stine, Cadiz, OH #2162	**President**	Sally Villalva, Pueblo, CO #3367
David Tice, Two Rivers, WI #2433	**President-Elect**	Katie Ziebol, Ogden, UT #2472
Bud Haigh, Three Rivers, MI #2303	**Vice President**	Lori Matheson, Vancouver, BC #2075
Ron Malz, Faribault, MN #1460	**Chaplain**	Mary Myers, Flint, MI #629
Chuck Cunningham, Akron, OH #2736	**Secretary**	Helen Poehner, Hamilton, OH #3986
D.R. "Jim" West, Hopkinsville, KY #3423	**Treasurer**	Althea Lane, Folsom, CA #929
Pat Gray, Depew, NY #2692	**Conductor**	Gloria Williams, Portland, OR #4
Dave Smith, Penticton, BC #4281	**Inside Guard**	Betty Browning, Knoxville, TN #2698
Brian Rogers, Sunnyslope, AZ #2957	**Outside Guard**	Sandy Biery, South Omaha, NE #154
Chuck Lang, Harvey, ND #3080	**Trustee**	Gloria Mason, Vincennes, IN #384
Jerry Sullivan, Fredericksburg, VA #4123	**Trustee**	Helen "Penny" Skinner, Clarksburg, WV #2353
H. Carl Burnett, Clovis, NM #3245	**Trustee**	Jacque Marble, Phoenix, AZ #2957
Tom McGrath, Vergennes, VT #3801	**Trustee**	Judy Johnson, Lawrence, KS #309

Face Of Diabetes Returns To International Convention Stage

It always starts with something small. Maybe a cold, or an ear infection. For a typical 13-year-old girl, catching something at school or from a friend is inconsequential. For Amanda Christ, nothing's ever simple.

Since August 2007, Christ has suffered from Type-1 diabetes. It was during that summer that her mother, Kathy, found her lying under a coffee table in the midst of a seizure caused by a disease she wasn't aware had taken control of her body.

In 2010, she first shared her story with members at International Convention in Louisville, Ky., as a representative of the F.O.E. Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa.

Last month, the Christ family returned to Convention to help further the quest for a cure and provide an update on her current health.

Since September 2011, Amanda has been hospitalized seven times. On two occasions, she had to be transported by ambulance from her hometown of Meadville, Pa., to Pittsburgh – nearly 90 miles away.

"It was hell," her mother said.

Each stay was the same. A simple ailment made exponentially worse due to complications from diabetes. Another harsh reminder that no matter the effort, the life of a diabetic is never normal.

Recently, things have turned upward for the Christ's, as changes to medication and increased education about maintaining the disease have kept Amanda free and clear of hospital stays.

Despite the hardships, Amanda and her mother made their way to Grand Rapids in positive spirits. July 8, Amanda celebrated her 13th birthday with a private party thrown by F.O.E. staff, a motorcycle ride as part of the Finish For Darrell event and a special presentation during the Welcome To Grand Rapids show.

Amanda with Grand Worthy President Ron Stine and Grand Madam President Sally Villalva.

The Junior Order of Eagles, the F.O.E.'s youth group, presented a $5,300 check for the DRC in her name and she was surprised on stage with a special video from comedian Mark Eddie, also a diabetic, with whom she bonded during her first visit to International Convention.

Eager to help in any way possible, Amanda traveled the Convention floor with donation jars, generating contributions from members and hotel guests and selling various DRC merchandise to help the cause.

As one 13-year-old girl proved in Grand Rapids, living with diabetes means you aren't the average teenager – it means you're something far, far greater.

SOAR

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Soar
1623 Gateway Circle South
Grove City, Ohio 43123
www.foe.com

Call
General Questions - 614-883-2200
Marketing Questions - 614-883-2210
Membership Questions - 614-883-2200

Email
marketing@foe.com

Fax
614-883-2201

Top Producers/ New Leaders

As of June 30

Aerie:

1. #793 Champlain, VT	44
2. #1208 Milton, PA	33
3. #486 Coeur D'Alene, ID	32
4. #925 Grand Haven, MI	30
5. #2586 Saratoga Springs, NY	27
#3723 Newark, OH	27

Auxiliary:

1. #2436 Chagrin Falls, OH	29
2. #4126 Regina, SK	22
3. #2298 Auburn, WA	21
4. #3204 Virginia Beach, VA	20
5. #3851 Durand, MI	19

Aerie (Individual):

1. Robert E. Wright	26
#3723 Newark, OH	
2. Ronald J. Samick	24
#536 Saint Marys, PA	
3. Cherilyn J. Rhoads	19
#486 Coeur D'Alene, ID	
4. Robert Porter	18
#3448 Twin Rivers, KS	
5. Hoyt Williams	17
#2839 North Platte, NE	
Don Hearn	17
#598 Waynesburg, PA	

Auxiliary (Individual):

1. Leann Meyer	13
#536 Saint Marys, PA	
2. Connie J. Brown	10
#2298 Auburn, WA	
Jennifer Kless	10
#2436 Chagrin Falls, OH	
4. Diana Sydlo	9
#4204 Parma, OH	
5. Mandie Rohlk	7
#1865 Hawarden, IA	

People Helping People - Convention Edition

Diabetes Research Center Live Auction

- Vinnie & The Moochers Signed Guitar donated by Vince Kinman. Won for $1,000 by the Massachusetts State Aerie.
- Hand Carved Cane donated by Ted Newman. Won for $625 by the Mass. State Aerie.
- Party Tub donated by the Indiana Eagles. Won for $425 by the Penn. State Aerie.
- Maine Lobster Basket donated by the Mass. State Aerie. Won for $675 by Kathryn Cole.
- Crown Royal Quilt Package donated by the Dakota State Aerie & Auxiliary. Won for $500 by Creighton Thurman.
- Money Wine Divine Tree donated by the South Central Region. Won for $900 by the Kansas State Aerie.
- Indianapolis Colts Basket donated by Alexandria Eagles #1771. Won for $400 by the Indiana State Aerie.
- Virginia Ham Basket donated by the Virginia State Aerie. Won for $1,750 by the Mass. State Aerie.
- Party Wagon donated by the Georgia State Aerie & Auxiliary. Won for $3,000 by the Kansas State Aerie.
- Autographed Don Felder Guitar. Won for $2,200 by Zo Drummond.

DRC Silent Auction

An additional 39 items were donated to the auction by members and generated $3,286 in contributions to the DRC! For a complete breakdown of items, visit the Members-Only website.

Mile Of Quarters

Members donated 23,611 quarters through collections taken during sessions for a total of $5,902.80!

DRC Marketplace

In its second year, the DRC Auxiliary Marketplace generated $9,153.42 thanks to 50/50 raffles and a variety of items for sale. Thank you to all of our wonderful ladies involved in the planning and selling of items during the week.

A Little Help From Our Friends

Todd Braun and the Turner Motorsports race team each contributed a $25,000 donation to the DRC.

International Convention Grants

-$120,000 to The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center
-$60,000 to Menninger Foundation
-$30,000 to Jackson Laboratory
-$30,000 to Orlando Regional Health Care Foundation
-$30,000 to Harry S. Truman/ F.O.E. Cardiology Laboratory
-$30,000 to Alberta Children's Hospital
-$30,000 to the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Research
-$30,000 to Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
-$30,000 to Schneck Medical Center Foundation
-$30,000 to National Jewish Medical & Research Center
-$30,000 to Rockefeller Cancer Institute
-$30,000 to Missouri Heart Institute
-$30,000 to Blank Children's Hospital
-$30,000 to ISSA Trust Foundation
-$30,000 to Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Fund
-$30,000 to Home On The Range
-$10,000 to Rosen Center Foundation

Finish For Darrell

Through money raised during the Finish For Darrell ride July 8, our members contributed $4,082.81 in donations in honor of brother Darrell Rall.

Parade of Checks

Throughout the week, various Aeries/ Auxiliaries and individuals presented checks to benefit the DRC. Their efforts brought in a total of $126,540.12!

DRC Pin Sales

For the third consecutive year, a limited edition DRC pin was sold, generating $1,260 in donations to help find a cure.

A Bright Future

The Junior Order of Eagles also made a splash this year, with a $5,300 presentation from the Virginia Beach, Va. and Spotsylvania, Va., J.O.E.'s on Sunday night and a $4,000 presentation by the Clovis, N.M., J.O.E., previously featured in Soar, from sales of their green apple "J.O.E. 4 DRC" pins. Way to go Junior Eagles!

DRC Total - $221,400.15

2011-2012 Charity Contribution Totals

Art Ehrmann Cancer Fund	$528,718.36
Jimmy Durante Children's Fund	$415,542.09
Max Baer Heart Fund	$413,849.08
Robert Hansen Diabetes Fund	$273,017.91
M. "Blackie" Floyd Alzheimer's Fund	$212,489.34
D.D. Dunlap Kidney Fund	$187,388.30
Lew Reed Spinal Cord Injury Fund	$186,473.58
Grand Aerie/State President's	$157,944.10
H.O.M.E. Fund	$154,869.32
Memorial Foundation	$108,411.94
Golden Eagle Fund	$99,109.32
Jimmy Durante Child Abuse Fund	$85,722.45
Eagle Village	$72,750.39
Parkinson's Fund	$36,175.99
Muscular Dystrophy Fund	$29,563.76
Children's AIDS Awareness Fund	$16,990.78
Charity Foundation Contributions	$16,779.43
Disaster Relief Fund	$15,502.08
Total	$3,011,298.22

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Aerie across the jurisdiction.

"I thought it was a little crazy at first," Lorry said, "but I didn't once think about saying no. It's hard to give up everything, but John's situation made me realize I might only have a month left or a year or five years. You never know."

Since then, the McMillan's have visited every Aerie in Florida, Georgia and Tennessee, greeting each club with warm hearts and a story that could make even the most callous observer melt with emotion.

Each month, they carefully budget their funds, with nearly half going toward their motorcycle payment. Remaining funds help with food, recreation, RV park fees and motor home repairs. While the arrangement can sometimes be tight, they're quick to let anyone know there's nothing rough about living a dream.

Since the accident that brought an unfortunate end to Rall's ride on June 24, Bear has pledged to raise money exclusively for the DRC during the remainder of his ride in an effort to help meet the goal Rall set before his journey of completing the Eagles' $25 million commitment to finding a cure.

The McMillan's are taking their trip north, including Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the remainder of summer and fall in hopes of visiting as many northern states as possible before winter.

Once finished, they would like to have the name and number of each Aerie written on the motorcycle, which they plan to auction off for the DRC. Bear also hopes to auction of a number of vests, all of which he plans to cover in pins collected along the way.

Until then, the couple will continue their travels, enjoying life together for however long it may last and sharing their time with friends new and old along the way and raising money for the DRC.

"Everywhere we go, it feels like home," John said. "That's why we got so involved in the Eagles to begin with. They make you feel like family. We gave up everything to do this, but they make me feel like I have more now than I did before."

To find out more about Bear's journey, visit www.aseaglesfly.com or follow his progress at www.foe.com.

News & Notes

Ladies Auxiliary Donates $2.5 Million To DRC

Thanks to the ladies of our Auxiliary, The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center made another great leap toward finding a cure last month. During the Board of Grand Trustees meeting Friday, July 13, Jr. Past Grand Madam President Gwen Stallkamp officially announced a $2.5 million donation to the DRC from the Auxiliary. Once again, our ladies have gone above and beyond the call of duty to show why the F.O.E. is the greatest organization in the world!

Let Us Help!

The summer is winding down and we know most of our Aeries and Auxiliaries are hard at work preparing big outdoor events while there's still time. Let the Grand Aerie Marketing & Communications Department help bring attention to your event by utilizing the Local News Program. Give us details for your upcoming event and we'll put together a release and share information with followers on Facebook and Twitter. Let us know what you're up to this summer and beyond at marketing@foe.com or call us at 614-883-2210.

Membership Contest Winners

The numbers are in and the winners of the June 2012 Membership Contest are:

Aerie Officer: *Robert Wright, Newark, OH #3723; 26 members*
Aerie Member: *Robert Porter, Twin Rivers, KS #3448; 18 members*
Aux. Officer: *Leann Meyer, St. Marys, PA #536; 13 members*
Aux. Member: *Erin Moylan, Virginia Beach, VA #3204; 6 members*

Each winner will receive a $45 prize. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped bring new faces into the organization!

Reminder

All NASCAR merchandise should be ordered from the Supply Department at supplies@foe.com or by phone at 614-883-2178. The Membership Department does not fill merchandise orders.

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2012 GRAND WORTHY PRESIDENT 2013
KEEP THE PACE
WIN THE RACE
TEAM UP FOR
MEMBERSHIP

2012-2013 Membership Awards

F.O.E. Diecast Car

5 Members • 1/64 scale car

Button-Up Shirt

15 Members • Sizes S-5XL

Bamboo BBQ Set

25 Members • 5 piece set

Bomber Jacket

50 Members • Sizes S-5XL

Stepping Up . . . for the FOE
Sally Villalva, GMP 2012-13

2012-2013 Membership Awards

Pocket Pal Tool Pen

2 Members · Includes 6 Bits

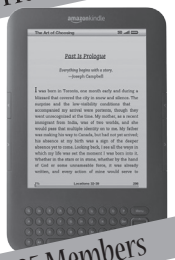
Meeting Tote

10 Members

Lightweight Jacket

20 Members · Sizes S-3XL

Amazon Kindle



35 Members

Don't Miss The Biggest Weekend In F.O.E. Racing History!

2 Races, 1 Great Weekend • Sept. 21 & 22 • Kentucky Speedway

Friday, Sept. 21: James Buescher drives the No. 31 black-and-yellow F.O.E. Chevy in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Kentucky 201. Tickets Available Now for just $34!

Saturday, Sept. 22: F.O.E. Racing Hospitality Event & James drives the No. 30 F.O.E. Chevy in the NASCAR Nationwide Series Kentucky 300

Tickets for Saturday are $95 and include:

A ticket to the Nationwide race • A ticket to the hospitality tent • T-Shirt • Koozie
Access to infield for pre- and post-race festivities

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES ★ .com

Get A Discount On Your Ticket!

By signing three (3) new or re-enrolled members from July 1-Aug. 31, you will be entitled to $20 off the cost of your hospitality event ticket. Each additional new or re-enrolled member you sign will entitle you to a $5 discount up to the value of the ticket.

Contact the Grand Aerie Membership Department at 614-883-2162
or membership@foe.com

Can't Make It? Throw A Party!

Send your NASCAR Party ideas to marketing@foe.com to receive a free party kit while supplies last! The best ideas will receive a special kit with an item autographed by James Buescher.